

Message Text

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PAGE 01 RIYADH 00316 010815Z
ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01
CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-01 INR-10 INT-05
L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 CTME-00 AID-05
SS-15 STR-07 ITC-01 TRSE-00 ICA-11 SP-02 SOE-02
OMB-01 DOE-15 /133 W
-----122334 010821Z /23

R 010653Z MAY 78
FM USLO RIYADH
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 452
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L RIYADH 316

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ETRD, XF
SUBJECT: PROPOSED CONFERENCE OF ARAB BOYCOTT LEAGUE

REF: RIYADH 185 (NOTAL)

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1. DURING APRIL 29 CONVERSATION WITH USLO OFFICER AHRAR
KHOJA, SAUDI BOYCOTT DIRECTOR, SAID THAT IF CURRENT EFFORTS
TO CONVENE ARAB BOYCOTT LEAGUE CONFERENCE ARE UNSUCCESSFUL,
SAUDI ARABIA WILL BREAK RANKS WITH THE BOYCOTT LEAGUE AND WILL
DE-BLACKLIST COCA COLA ON ITS OWN. WHILE THE DIRECTOR APPEARED
TO BE STATING OFFICIAL DECISION, HIS REMARKS ALSO REFLECTED
HIS OWN GROWING DOUBTS THAT THE CONFERENCE WOULD EVER BE HELD

IN THE NEAR FUTURE. THE PROBLEM, HE SAID, WAS TO FIND A PLACE TO HOLD THE CONFERENCE: A COUNTRY ACCEPTABLE AS NEUTRAL GROUND TO BOTH THE REJECTIONISTS AND THE MODERATES AND AT THE SAME TIME ONE WILLING TO PLAY HOST. BAHRAIN RECENTLY TURNED DOWN A CBO REQUEST TO HOST THE CONFERENCE AND SANA DECLINED A SIMILAR APPROACH BY THE SAUDIS.

2. KHOJA SAID THAT THE ARAB FOREIGN MINISTERS WHO RECENTLY MET IN CAIRO HAD DESIGNATED THE SUDAN TO ACT AS MEDIATOR BETWEEN SIDES AND TO ATTEMPT TO FIND AN ACCEPTABLE SITE FOR THE CONFERENCE. THIS MISSION WAS ONE OF THE MAIN PURPOSES OF PRESIDENT NUMEIRI'S CURRENT TRIP TO ARAB CAPITALS. KHOJA SAW NUMEIRI'S TRIP AS THE LAST CHANCE TO SAVE THE CONFERENCE. IF NUMEIRI INITIATIVE SHOULD FAIL SAUDI ARABIA WOULD THEN MOVE ON THE COCA COLA APPLICATION FOR DEBLACKLISTING. COMMENT: SAUDI ARABIA HAS PREVIOUSLY WARNED THE CBO THAT FAILURE TO WORK OUT DIFFERENCES IN AN OPEN FORUM THREATENED THE SOLIDARITY OF THE BOYCOTT LEAGUE. HOWEVER, KHOJA GAVE NO INDICATION THAT HE WOULD COMMUNICATE THE NEW SAUDI INTENTION TO OTHER LEAGUE MEMBERS.

GNEHM

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARABS, PLANNING MEETINGS, BOYCOTTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978RIYADH00316
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780185-0386
Format: TEL
From: RIYADH
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197805106/aaaadmgi.tel
Line Count: 84
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: abaca494-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 RIYADH 185
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2531084
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PROPOSED CONFERENCE OF ARAB BOYCOTT LEAGUE
TAGS: ETRD, XF
To: STATE JIDDA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/abaca494-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014